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PRISONERS' KIN REACH HONOLULU

Walsh, Mrs. Downey Have No Complaints On Reds

CPYRGHT

Honolulu, Aug. 25 (AP) — Two Americans who visited their relatives in Communist Chinese prisons arrived today en route home, with no complaints of the treatment of the prisoners.

The two are Judge William C. Walsh, 70, of Cumberland, and Mrs. Mary Downey, 62, of New Britain, Conn. They were aboard the same plane, Pan American Flight 2, from Hong Kong.

Mrs. Downey, a school teacher, visited her son, John Downey, 30, in a Peiping prison. Judge Walsh visited his brother, Catholic Bishop James E. Walsh, 60, in a Shanghai prison.

Both prisoners are under life sentence on charges of espionage.

Mother Is Hopeful

Mrs. Downey continued on the same flight to San Francisco. Judge Walsh was accompanied by his wife and the couple is spending a few days in Honolulu before resuming their flight home Monday.

Looking weary and worn, Mrs. Downey told newsmen at the airport she was hopeful her son may eventually be released from his life sentence because of good behavior.

"I have nothing tangible," she said, "but that's the way I feel, that he eventually will be released because of clemency."

"Never Looking Better"

Mrs. Downey, who had traveled to Red China once before to see her son in prison in 1958, related that Chinese authorities said they may be lenient in cases of good behavior.

"I never saw him looking better," she beamed.

She said he was getting good food and receiving the monthly 22-pound food parcels she sent him as well as packages from the Red Cross.

"He likes candy and nuts, and they are included in the packages," she said.

"He looks excellent and is in splendid spirits," she said.

Had Five Visits

Mrs. Downey had five visits with her son during her two-week stay on the China mainland. Each lasted about two hours. She came out of Red China yesterday into Hong Kong, leaving almost immediately for the United States.

Judge Walsh said he saw his brother three times. The first visit lasted 30 minutes and the other two about an hour each.

"I feel amply repaid for my trip," he said. "My brother is in good condition and good spirits."

He said Bishop Walsh told him that his visit was "the greatest human consolation he had ever received."

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